

King County Mobility Coalition

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 18, 2011, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Rm 4060

In attendance

Members/Alternates: Gaby Bell, Jim Blanchard, Gil Cerise, Dorene Cornwell, Bill Eby, Ref Lindmark, Jacque Mann, Scott Ninneman, Alex O'Reilly (Co-chair), Eileen Rasnack, Bob Sahm (Co-chair), Edith Savadove, George Smith, Irene Stewart, Dinah Wilson, Cindy Zwart.
Guests: Evita Almassi, Shelley Hawkins, Evan Olsen, Claire Petersky, Pam Piering, Julie Povick, Darci Samad, Pran Wahi.
Staff: Michelle Zeidman.

Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

Bob Sahm and Alex O'Reilly welcomed the group. Everyone introduced themselves and shared brief announcements.

New Introductions:

- Pran Wahi works with India Association of Western Washington (IAWW).
- Edith Savadove is a support service coordinator with [Northwest Center Works](#), an employment program for people with disabilities.
- Darci Samad is the partner relations manager for Hopelink's transportation brokerage.
- Evan Olsen is a federal programs planner at WSDOT in its coordinated transportation and special needs transportation programs.
- Gil Cerise is a senior transit planner with the Puget Sound Regional Council.
- Shelley Hawkins is a paratransit consultant and user.

Announcements:

- Gaby Bell shared the new large folding maps of accessible travel options in King County, created in partnership between KCMC, Harborview Medical Center, Hopelink and King County Metro.
- Ref Lindmark announced that the Alaskan Way Viaduct will be closed next week, including the Battery Street tunnel. This is expected to delay bus service throughout the county.
- Jacque Mann shared that Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD) received match money from a local bank to replace an aging van via Metro's surplus van program.
- Jim Blanchard announced that the South County transportation group had their first meeting last month.
- Ref Lindmark and Bob Sahm drew attention to an upcoming ballot initiative regarding tolling, noting that it would limit the ability to run light rail across the I-90 bridge.

Recognition of Pam Piering

On behalf of the King County Mobility Coalition, Alex O'Reilly recognized Pam Piering for her 30+ years of service. Pam served as director of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) from 1996 until her retirement in July 2011. Prior to her position as ADS director, Pam was a Seattle

Human Services Department planner for 16 years, where she worked on family, senior and intergenerational policies. Pam demonstrated her commitment to coordination by empowering ADS staff to create Key Partners, the predecessor of the King County Mobility Coalition, and by staying active in the Coalition over the last decade. We appreciate her openness to innovation, long-standing leadership, and commitment to improving mobility for people with special needs.

Pam shared that when ADS first brought together the Key Partners, they didn't know who wasn't at the table. She is excited to see all the new faces in the group, and those who have been there since its start. She remarked that KCMC has grown into quite the network!

Consent Calendar

New Members and Alternates: the Coalition appointed the following members and alternates:

- Edith Savadove (member) for Northwest Center Works (representing businesses and employers)
- Gil Cerise (member) for Puget Sound Regional Council

August 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes: the Coalition approved the meeting minutes as written.

Mobility Manager Update

Michelle Zeidman announced that Hopelink, on behalf of the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative, received a grant from the Puget Sound Regional Council to conduct outreach to special needs populations along the East Link light rail line over the next year. This grant leverages Federal Transportation Administration dollars as match for this Housing & Urban Development grant.

Michelle noted that a recent graduate of the UW Social Work master's program has been researching grant opportunities for the Livable Communities Committee project to provide non-emergency medical transportation for low-income people who would otherwise not be able to make their follow-up appointments. This project is intended to reduce patient readmission rates.

Michelle shared that she has been serving on the PSRC's Equity Network Steering Committee, representing special needs transportation issues.

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (EERC) Update

- Alex O'Reilly shared that Alina Aaron, staff to EERC, drafted a summary of their new action plan: http://www.eastsideeasyrider.org/projects-reports/eerc_transportation_apw_summary_report_20110815-2/ This included interest in city circulators which the group will pursue. They also are tracking the free bus tickets that are part of the Congestion Reduction Charge, to ensure they are distributed evenly throughout the county, including in East King County.
- EERC is expanding outreach to cities beyond Bellevue and have garnered new members.
- In November, EERC is hosting a forum on transportation options during emergencies: http://www.eastsideeasyrider.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/EKC_Community_Preparedness_Forum_Flyer_20111103.pdf

North King County Mobility Coalition (NKCMC) Update

- George Smith shared that Alina Aaron, staff to NKCMC, is working with their group to implement the findings from their survey. Project examples include outreach to doctors to increase their understanding of transportation options for their patients, and posting

transportation information on north King County agency websites to spread the word about available transportation services.

Immigrant & Refugee Elders Transportation Project

Cindy Zwart reminded the Coalition about the \$20,000 grant Senior Series received, on behalf of the KCMC, to conduct outreach to newly arrived immigrants and refugees in King County. The Outreach Committee is implementing action projects from the summit. This includes the creation of three instructional videos: (1) how to ride transit, (2) how to pay for transit, and (3) other community transportation options. Peer elders will be the actors in these videos, with leaders from each community providing an introduction and narration for the videos in their native languages. The videos will be available in 8 languages: Amharic, Burmese, English, Nepali, Russian, Somali, Spanish and Tigrinya. Written translations of the script will be provided in hard copy format and distributed. This project will be completed by the end of November 2011.

Safe Place program

Ref Lindmark briefed the Coalition on King County's Safe Place program, which was announced in the end of August. Part of a national effort, our local program identifies public transit buses as a safe place for youth and young adults to turn when they need help. When a young person tells a bus driver they need help, the driver calls dispatch who sends a staff person from a partnering agency to pick up the youth and help them find housing and/or other services.



Fourteen hundred (1,400) Metro and Sound Transit buses participate in this program and are identified by a logo near the bus door. Partners include Friends of Youth, Auburn Youth Resources, YouthCare and ATU #587. Some businesses also participate in this program and are designated with the same logo.

Alex O'Reilly noted that this service operates 24/7. King County is the only place in the nation to partner with transit on the program. Other outreach efforts include a community information card that describes the program, and is posted at libraries, teen feeds, community centers, schools and other locations. Jim Blanchard shared that his agency and the other first-contact agencies have beds available for youth, and they are networked with many other agencies.

Other Discussion

Emergency Preparedness: Shelley Hawkins reminded the Coalition that the majority of people with disabilities who did not survive last winter, died because they lacked access to their medications. It is important that people who take medications on a regular basis at least carry a card with the names and dosages of their medications. Alex O'Reilly offered to share this information during the EERC's Emergency Preparedness Forum in November.

Congestion Reduction Charge: Ref Lindmark

Ref Lindmark announced that the Congestion Reduction Charge was enacted by the County Council, and brought attention to two of its provisions:

1. Free Ride Tickets: for each vehicle registered, the owner will have the option of (A) receiving four roundtrip tickets on Metro, or (B) donating those tickets into a pool (distribution method to be determined).

2. Ride Free Zone: starting October 2012, the Ride Free Zone in downtown Seattle will no longer exist. All riders will pay when they board. Ref and Bob Sahm are on the communication planning team for this change. Bob explained that the Ride Free Zone was created through an arrangement between Seattle and King County, where the City compensated Metro for the free rides. However, the City's contribution has not been adjusted and the County cannot bear this expense given its current budget situation. Bob noted that Metro is conducting outreach to agencies that serve people with disabilities in downtown to educate them about the change and to create plans to address their clients' needs. Shelley Hawkins noted that as a downtown resident, she feels that the Ride Free Zone is unsafe and believes downtown will be safer after the Ride Free Zone is removed.

Special State Legislative Budget Session

Bob Sahm briefed the Coalition on the Special Legislative Session, starting end of November, which will address the state's \$1.2 billion shortfall. Bob noted that the co-chairs discussed the possibility of writing a letter to our legislators in support of special needs transportation. The Coalition reviewed draft talking points compiled by staff. Several topics were suggested for inclusion including adult day health, transit formula funds, Senior Citizens Services Act, and Medicaid cuts and their impact on transportation. Members suggested framing the letter to include the power of state dollars to leverage results (including federal funds, nonprofit programs, and King County support), and the power of coordination (including reducing duplications, creating networks and federal support for coordination).

Program Presentation: Eastside Friends of Seniors

Claire Petersky briefed the Coalition on the services provided by [Eastside Friends of Seniors](#).

- Eastside Friends of Seniors (formerly Faith in Action) provides volunteer transportation services, homes services, social support, and information and referrals. Top priorities for transportation are: (1) medical appointments, (2) groceries, and (3) prevention of social isolation. A home visit is required to evaluate the senior's mobility needs.
- They serve seniors (60 years or older) who live independently; there is no income limit. In the last 6 months, they served 213 clients. Their service area is expanding to residents of greater Issaquah, Sammamish and Snoqualmie Valley. They transport to Seattle.
- This program is funded primarily by congregations and private donations; they also receive some support from the cities of Issaquah and Sammamish and via private grants.

2010-2015 Action Plan Review & Discussion

The Coalition reviewed the action plan and noted its accomplishments thus far. (See attached).

Next Steps

- Bob Sahm announced that his term as co-chair concludes this year, and he is not seeking re-election. However, he will continue to participate in the Coalition. A nominating committee will be formed to recommend a new co-chair to fill this position.
- Meeting locations for 2012 will rotate throughout the county. Locations will be on transit routes and offer accessible meeting spaces.

Agendas, minutes and handouts from past Coalition meeting are available online at:
<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/kccsnt/agendas-minutes.html>